

PROJECT SITE SELECTION

Locations for wind energy sites are selected based on a vast variety of criteria including but not limited to the following:

- Average wind speed and consistency
- Topography and geography – open to prevailing wind and constructible terrain
- Proximity to grid connection
- Environmental and other factors
- Availability of land
- Proximity to major population centres

All of these factors were considered in the selection of the Granite Hills site and are continually reviewed based on updates to studies and new information to refine the project. Given its close proximity to the grid, high and consistent wind speeds, geography and other factors, the location for Granite Hills is acknowledged as highly favourable for a wind farm.

TURBINE LAYOUT PROGRESS

Wind farm design is based on a collection of factors including site area, wind speed and prevailing wind direction, topography, existing infrastructure and site constraints including proximity to neighbours, biodiversity, heritage, telecommunications, aviation and other factors. Upon final input on these key items and the outcomes of the expanded bird study, an update to the design will be made. The key aim has been to avoid or minimise impacts to the environment and community in the immediate and surrounding area.

BIRD STUDIES

The level 2 bird study is nearing completion. SMEC, in collaboration with other independent specialists, has been completing significant work in this area both on site and at a desktop computational level. The field surveys are complete but require significant modelling and collision analysis to take place to finalise the results. Final feedback on this process will be provided to the project team once the computations are complete and shared with the community.

WELCOME

Our newsletters focus on updating you about the project, sharing any news, events or engagement activities in the community.

Visit granitehillswindfarm.com and register your interest to receive these updates about the project via email.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Granite Hills Wind Farm is a State Significant Development, situated in Steeple Flat, approximately 12 kilometres South East of Nimmitabel in New South Wales. When complete the project will comprise of up to 32-wind turbines, with approximately 3-5 megawatts capacity and a maximum tip height of 200 metres. The 132MW wind farm would generate enough clean energy for around 50,000 homes.

STAY IN TOUCH

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the project, please send an email to granitehills@akuoenergy.com or phone 1800 961 761.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The last meeting was held on Tuesday 16 April 2019. Ms Nicole Brewer and Mr Iwan Davis from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) attended the meeting. Several topics were discussed including the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan, EIS exhibition periods and how the local community can be involved in the process. Akuo Energy would like to thank the DPE for joining us and providing information to our committee members. At the April meeting we also welcomed two new members to the committee and look forward to their involvement in keeping the community updated about the project.

Minutes of all CCC meetings can be found on the project website. Every meeting is chaired by an Independent Chair, Peter Gordon. Peter can be contacted via peter.gordon@charterpoint.com.au or call 0417 064 767. The list of members is available on our website.

CCC meetings ensure the community and stakeholder groups are informed about the project status, consulted on the progress of the project plans and any proposed changes. Members are also able to provide feedback on issues that may arise during the development of the project. The next CCC meeting will held on Tuesday 30 July 2019.

PROJECT PROGRESS - PREPARING THE EIS STAGE

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) plays a critical role in the process of identifying, predicting, assessing, evaluating and mitigating the environmental, social, economic and other relevant effects of development proposals.

Preparation of the EIS follows the scoping phase where the relevant matters to be addressed in the EIS and the level of assessment of those matters is identified, including community and stakeholder perspectives. An effective scoping phase leads to a better quality EIS, with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) produced as an outcome of scoping to set the terms of reference for the EIS. It is our responsibility to ensure the EIS addresses all the matters identified in the SEARs so the DPE has sufficient information to properly assess the project.

Once the EIS and related documents have been submitted and reviewed by the DPE, these documents are made available for public exhibition and comment.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TIMELINE



PROJECT TIMELINE

Activity	Expected Date (Q = Year Quarter)
Submissions of PEIA	Complete
Reception of SEARs	Complete
Submission of Commonwealth Referral	Complete
Finalisation of EIS Studies	Q4 2019
Submission of EIS	Q1 2020
Period for Public Comment	Q1 2020
EIS Approval	Q4 2020
Financial Close	Q2 2021
Start Construction	Q3 2021
Commercial Operation (COD)	Q3 2023

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